



**Congratulations this month go to -**  
**Kat Butler, Nicky Bloch, Dee Bolt,**  
**Seymour Forsythe. Steve Gillespie,**  
**Andrew Lawrenson, Rhoda**  
**Lawrenson, Debbie Moffett &**  
**Derek Stockdale**  
**on becoming Members of the Institute.**  
*Good luck and safe driving to any Associate(s)*  
*approaching their test.*

This month we would like to welcome, as new members, Carey Crawford, Jonathan Clarke, Jonathan Davidson, Ben Farmer, Neil Farmer, Ruby Finlay, Mina McCoy, Annie McFarland, Debbie Moffett, Noel Spiers, Peter Surgenor and Christopher Ward. We hope that they will not only gain from being members of our Group but will also enjoy the friendship and camaraderie of our get-togethers. We usually meet (unless otherwise stated) at the Boathouse, which is situated in the harbour carpark, at Groomspoint at 7.00pm on the second Tuesday of each month (except July). For more details of our programme please see the section entitled "Dates for Your Diary".

If anyone has recently done their test, don't forget to contact John (07967 010443) for a debrief. Observers, please keep John acquainted with the progress of your Associate(s).

### June Group Meeting

9th June, 2009

One of the high points of the year is our Barbecue & Navigation Exercise and this year it was held at the Crawfordsburn Scout Camp. The Navigation Drive started at the Scout Camp on a lovely summer's evening and started off by winding its way around the North Down Coast before meandering along the leafy country lanes between Newtownards and Donaghadee. The instructions then led us back to the Scout Camp again where we were treated to scrumptious hamburgers, hotdogs and salads all washed down with lashings of hot and cold beverages. It was a splendid evening, well organised, well-provisioned and people went home with that satisfied feeling that they had had a very enjoyable evening. Leslie and Robin went home happier than most as they had won the Navigation Exercise.

A big thank you to Keith, Aaron, Louise & Sarah and the team for the hard work that went into organising the route and to Rosemary, Avril, Norah, Wendy, Paul and Trevor for providing the hearty feast.

### August Group Meeting

11th August, 2009

As we usually do on our August Group Night we had an evening all to do with car maintenance and servicing. Aaron had volunteered to take the talk as he had in the past and he gave us an insight into why we should carry out regular maintenance and servicing on our vehicles. Below is a very much paraphrased edition of his excellent talk.

#### Servicing - Why bother ?

- Safety - A well maintained car is a safe car. Good !
- Residual Value - A poorly maintained vehicle will experience higher depreciation. Not Good!
- Fuel Economy - Regular servicing and maintenance will improve your fuel economy and save you money!
- Pride - For many people, their car is their second most expensive possession. Why not look after it ?

#### How Often ?

- Fixed Intervals - Service regularly and within the manufacturers guidelines.
  - Oil, Coolant, Spark Plugs, Brake Components & Fluid, Power Steering Fluid, Battery, Fault Codes in ECU

- Weekly or Monthly Checks
  - Engine Oil Level, Coolant Level, Other Important Fluids, Windscreen Wash & Jets, Wiper Blades, Tyre Condition and Pressures (inc Spare), Light Bulbs, Other Equipment
- Every Drive
  - Puncture Check, Windscreen & Mirror Filth, Remove Harmful Deposits, Dashboard Lights, Mirror Adjustment, Seat Position

Aaron's presentation then went on to show, by the means of photos, the location of some of the components that we should be looking at or the ways in which we can make sure the appropriate levels of liquids are kept in the normal range.

He then looked at changing a wheel and the various procedures that should be employed to ensure that this is a safe operation.

He closed his very interesting and enjoyable presentation with a question and answer session which, as is usually the case in the group, provoked a lot of discussion.

### AMNI Karting Challenge

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July saw the first of what we all hope will become an annual event for Northern Ireland's advanced motorists. It was of course, the AMNI Karting Challenge, a go-kart competition for all IAM members, friends, family and guests. This year's competition was held at Eddie Irvine Sports in Bangor Co Down and we saw a good turnout of competitors from both the North Down and Belfast groups. It was unfortunate that the other IAM groups within Region 8 were unrepresented but as the day proved to be a great success, it proved the perfect inauguration for this annual inter-group competition. This year's event took the form of a karting grand prix, with several rounds of heats followed by a semi-final and ultimately a longer duration final.

After some close and often questionable driving, and some penalty calls by the race stewards, the grid for the final was as follows: 1) Will Robinson (Bel), 2) Alan Millar (ND), 3) Aaron MacQuarrie (ND), 4) Keith Patterson (ND), 5) Dee Bolt (ND), 6) Mark Bouges (Bel), Trevor Bingham (Bel), Jason MacQuarrie (ND).

The final was a tough race with plenty of action but was eventually won by Alan Millar from the North Down group. Dee Bolt (also from North Down) took second place with Will Robinson from the Belfast group taking the final podium position in third. Keith Patterson (AMNI Secretary) finished fourth, but did manage to post the day's fastest lap time of 38.26s.

Congratulations to all those who participated and we certainly hope to see you there again next year. A big thankyou also goes out to the team at Eddie Irvine Sports, for looking after us on the day and to Aaron MacQuarrie from North Down group for organising the event. For photos from the 2009 AMNI Karting Challenge, or to be kept informed of future events like this, make sure you keep an eye on our website ([www.amni.org.uk](http://www.amni.org.uk)) or follow us on Facebook (<http://www.amni.org.uk/facebook>).

### AMNI on Facebook

As a recent addition to our website, the Advanced Motorists of Northern Ireland are now on Facebook.

If you're not already familiar with Facebook, it's the world's most popular social networking website and the AMNI page allows for us to keep you informed of all forthcoming events and to share photos and experiences from previous meetings.

To follow us, simply visit <http://www.amni.org.uk/facebook>

### Dates for Your Diary

1st Sept, 2009	STAC 18/1 Classroom and Driving Practice Session
8th Sept, 2009	Group Night - Visit from PSNI.
22nd Sept, 2009	STAC 18/2 Classroom and Driving Practice Session
29th Sept, 2009	STAC 18/3 Classroom and Driving Practice Session
6th Oct, 2009	STAC 18/4 Classroom and Driving Practice Session
13th Oct, 2009	Group Night - Annual General Meeting. - Guest Mervyn Bates
17th Oct, 2009	Marie Curie Ladies Driving Challenge - Kirkistown